

26th May 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Summer is fast approaching and I do hope you have enjoyed some of the excellent sunshine we have been experiencing down here on the South Coast. Our Year 11 and 13 public exams are in full swing and we have all been so impressed by the mature, studious and calm approach from our students. Likewise, we thank parents for their support in keeping the students on track, guiding their revision at home and maintaining healthy eating and sleeping patterns; a vital role at this potentially stressful time. So far, many students have given the feedback that many of the exams were less daunting than they had expected and that they have been a fair test of their knowledge.

A reminder on some healthy eating issues: Increasingly we are seeing energy and fizzy drinks in school. We do not allow students to consume these on site and remain concerned about their impact on children's health. We provide healthy eating options in school, including free breakfast items as well as nutritionally balanced main meals which remain our highest 'value for money' items in the canteen. The consumption of energy drinks and sugar-based sweets before and during school damages concentration, particularly in exams.

Support for the GCSE Exams

Students in Year 11 have been in at 8am every morning to enjoy their free exam breakfast. This has been a great success and will continue after half term. In addition, warm-ups have been taking place in Clare Hall, giving the students a chance to gain some last-minute tips before each exam. Over May half term there will be a number of sessions that are on offer during the four days of the holiday and we thoroughly encourage students to make the most of these (See grid at the end of the letter). Revision is of course the key to success.

We have also noted that quite a large number of our students are using Weymouth Library to revise in a quiet space at weekends and during holidays, which is great. So, we have arranged to open our own Resources Centre during each day of Half Term. Students can take food in and hot drinks will be provided. This will provide them with a supervised calm and quiet space to work, combined with the opportunity to use the laptops and printers when needed. Please encourage your child to use this offer and if you think any additional support is needed at this difficult time, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us as we want to help.

Changing our Management Information System (MIS)

During the May Half Term, we will be moving from our current management information system (SIMS), to a new system called Arbor. This means that after the 26th May the SIMS Parent App will no longer update. Details on how to register for the Arbor Parent and Guardian Portal will be sent out early next half term. Pay360 however, will continue to work as usual. Detailed information about the new MIS will be sent to all parents and carers in the coming weeks.

Reports

To simplify reports, predicted grades will be removed from KS4 and KS5 reports from September 2023 onwards. We believe that the grades for effort, current grade and the performance in the most recent exam for example, will suffice. In addition, target grades will only appear in Year 11 and 13 reports. If you have any queries or questions about this please email kharris@budmouth-aspirations.org

Duke of Edinburgh

We were really proud to see some of our former Sixth Form students attend the Gold Award presentation with the Duke of Edinburgh at Buckingham Palace recently. Huge congratulations to Emilia Noyce, Ffion Anderson Terry, Holly Roberts and Rudy Sawtell. They were accompanied by their excellent DofE lead teacher Sam Temple who has worked tirelessly over the years to enable so many of our students to experience the life-long educational opportunities offered by the DofE scheme. Please read more about this story on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/BudmouthAcademy/> where you can see how many students have been successful inside and outside the classroom here at Budmouth. Celebrating success is important to us and really helps students develop a sense of self-worth, engagement in school life and importantly, a genuine sense of purpose.

Sports Hall

Many of you will be aware that our Sports Hall has been closed. The bad news is that there is minimal chance that the Sports Hall will be usable at any point in the future. The good news is that the Sports Hall will be rebuilt, and we are awaiting news from the Department of Education on how quickly this is likely to happen. A brand new facility will be fantastic, but in the meantime, I must thank the PE department staff, the students and parents for their patience on this matter. This will mean any clubs open to the public, like for example the Basketball Club are unlikely to return to the site before the new Sports Centre has opened. Luckily, we have two gyms which can be used in the event of bad weather and also in the winter. We also have a dedicated PE team passionate about delivering high levels of physical education, huge numbers of fixtures and extra-curricular opportunities that will help minimise impact on the students. The Fitness Suite has been relocated to the ground floor of Clare Tower and this will be in full use after half term.

The National Nurture Award

Last week Budmouth Academy was successfully accredited as a National Nurture School. This award is for schools that have attended the National Nurturing Schools Programme (NNSP) and which have succeeded in creating a whole school nurturing culture for the children and young people in their care. Our aim is to give all students the social and emotional skills to do well at school and with peers and to develop their resilience and their capacity to deal more confidently with the trials and tribulations of life, for life. Success in achieving this award was largely due to the dedicated staff that run our Student Support Centre, in particular Ollie Leigh and Alison Lawrence. They worked alongside staff, students and parents to help secure this award. We have even been asked to become a Nurture Ambassador School, a status held by only a handful of secondary schools nationally. Our Student Support Centre is available to all students and if you wish to know more about the work we, and other schools do to support the social, emotional and mental health of our young people, please click on this link <https://www.nurtureuk.org/>

Year 6 Transition

It was great to meet all of the new students and parents on face to face video calls last week. I know many are looking forward to joining us and at a time where there are more applicants than places; it was also a good opportunity for them to finally meet the leadership team for the first time. We will soon welcome parents to the Year 6 Transition Evening on 20th June at 6.30pm. We hope to answer your questions about life for Year 7 students here at the academy and this will be followed up by the Year 6 Transition Day, where we welcome students for a fun-filled and informative day at Budmouth. For the first time we will also be providing up to 50 specially trained peer mentors to support the students in the early stages of their career here at the school.

Toilet use

At Budmouth Academy we believe that **every child should have the right to visit the toilet** when needed. We also know that in some other schools toilet use has been banned during lessons, toilets have been locked, the doors removed and CCTV placed inside some communal toilet areas. **We will not be imposing these rules.** However, the number of children visiting the toilets has risen sharply in recent years. We have experienced the same issue here at Budmouth.

The main 5 reasons we have discovered for this are:

- Truancy - students using toilet visits to avoid longer periods of study in class.
- Vaping - vaping use in toilets is a problem in all schools, nationwide.
- Phone use - visiting the toilet to use a phone to access text, calls or social media.
- Graffiti and vandalism.
- Genuine need and those students issued with a toilet card for a medical reason.

Teachers at Budmouth are advised to use their discretion when deciding whether toilet requests are genuine. They have also been asked to make a note if children are using the toilet regularly. Children visiting the toilet for genuine reasons will be asked to hand in their phone. This will be given back immediately on return. Students are advised to use the toilets during break times, before and after school. There are enough toilets in school. The number of students has not grown significantly and we have changed more staff toilets to student facilities in recent years. A significant issue is that students are using the toilets for reasons other than those they are designed for. Genuine users then complain and rightly so, that there are not enough facilities available.

Please enjoy a restful long weekend and thanks again for the support shown to our young people, particularly those sitting their public exams. It is with the support of family, the community and staff working together that they can best achieve their goals. Good luck to them!

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Michael Hoffmann', with a stylized, cursive script.

Michael Hoffmann
Principal

May Half Term Revision Sessions

DAY	SUBJECT	SESSION DETAIL	ROOM	TIMES
Tuesday 30th AM	Separate Chemistry	Paper 2 walkthrough	G03	10-12
Tuesday 30th AM	Resources Center	Quiet revision space and access to resources	RC	9am - 3pm
Tuesday 30th AM	Business Studies	Exam questions and revision for Paper Two	B16	10-1
Tuesday 30th AM/PM	Maths	Predicted Paper 2 - HIGHER	G15	9am - 3pm
Tuesday 30th AM/PM	Maths	Predicted Paper 2 - FOUNDATION	G19	9am - 3pm
Tuesday 30th AM/PM	Maths	Predicted Paper 2 - FOUNDATION	G23	9am - 3pm
Tuesday 30th AM/PM	Maths	Predicted Paper 2 - FOUNDATION	F09	9am - 3pm
Tuesday 30th AM/PM	Maths	Predicted Paper 2 - FOUNDATION	G20	9am - 3pm
Tuesday 30th PM	Resources Center	Quiet revision space and access to resources	RC	9am - 3pm
Wednesday 31st AM	English Language	Language Paper 1 and 2 revision of key skills	F28 and F32	10-12:30pm
Wednesday 31st AM	Resources Center	Quiet revision space and access to resources	RC	9am - 3pm
Wednesday 31st PM	Resources Center	Quiet revision space and access to resources	RC	9am - 3pm
Thursday 1st AM	Dance	Theory Paper Revision - Sections A and B with ANM, Section C with SAT	E20 and E15/E08	9.30-3pm
Thursday 1st AM	Resources Center	Quiet revision space and access to resources	RC	9am - 3pm
Thursday 1st AM	Health and Social Care	Health and social Care - exam prep running through each topic area	B03	10-1pm
Thursday 1st PM	Dance	Theory Paper Revision - Sections A and B with ANM, Section C with SAT	E20 and E15/E08	9.30-3pm
Thursday 1st PM	Resources Center	Quiet revision space and access to resources	RC	9am - 3pm
Friday 2nd AM	Resources Center	Quiet revision space and access to resources	RC	9am - 3pm
Friday 2nd AM	Creative iMedia	Creative iMedia revision and exam practice	D07	9.30 - 12.00
Friday 2nd AM	History	Anglo-Saxon and Cold War revision	F05	9am - 3pm
Friday 2nd PM	Resources Center	Quiet revision space and access to resources	RC	9am - 3pm